

New York State Severe Weather Awareness Week April 26th to May 2nd, 2015

Tornadoes

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Binghamton NY



Introduction to Severe Weather Awareness Week 2015 Tornado

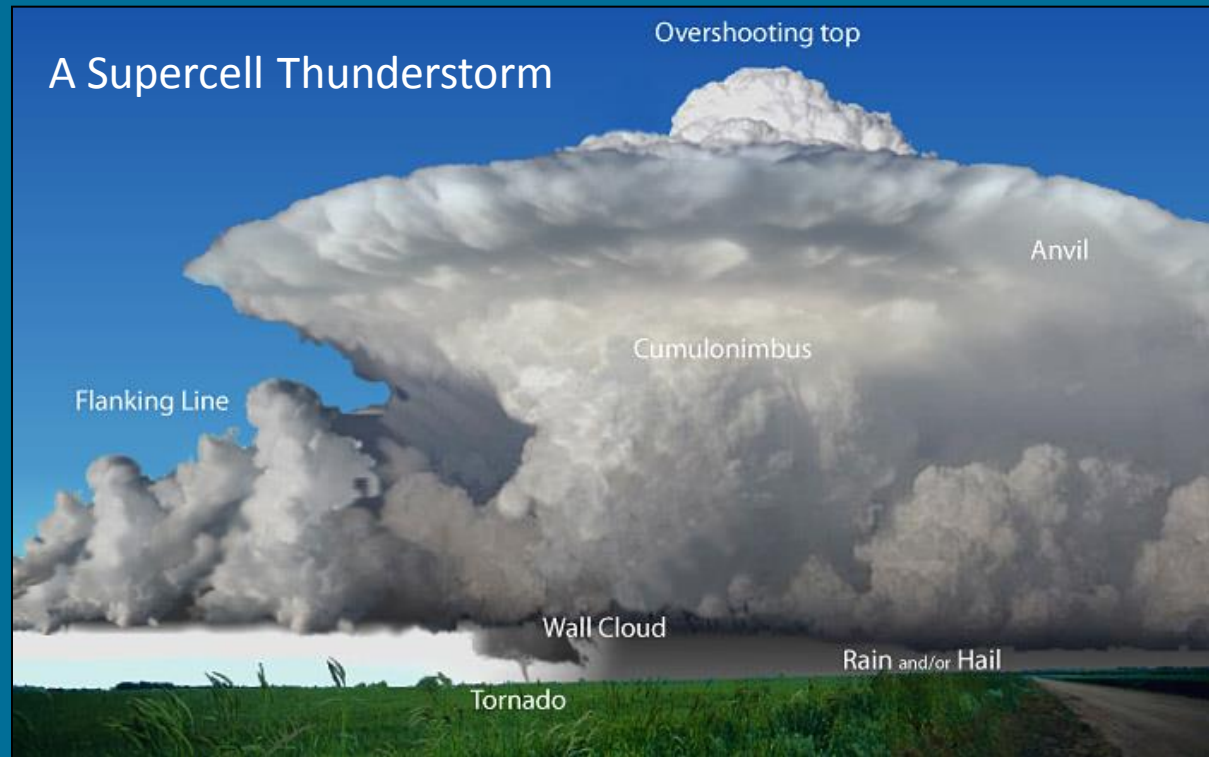
- What is a tornado?
- What is the average number tornadoes per year per state?
- What is the life cycle of a tornado?
- What is the Enhanced Fujita Scale?
- Tornado Tracks
- Damage from local tornadoes
- Tornado Safety



Tornado

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air attached to a thunderstorm base and is in contact with the ground

- Tornadoes typically form from organized thunderstorms called supercells
- However, tornadoes can form within a line of storms.
- Tornadoes usually follow after the development of a wall cloud.
- A visible (condensation) funnel does not have to touch the ground to be a tornado.



Tornado

Tornadoes come in all shapes and sizes.

Tornadoes form all over the country and all times of the year.

Tornadoes can cause billions of dollars in damages.

All tornadoes large and small can be deadly if one does not take proper safety precautions.


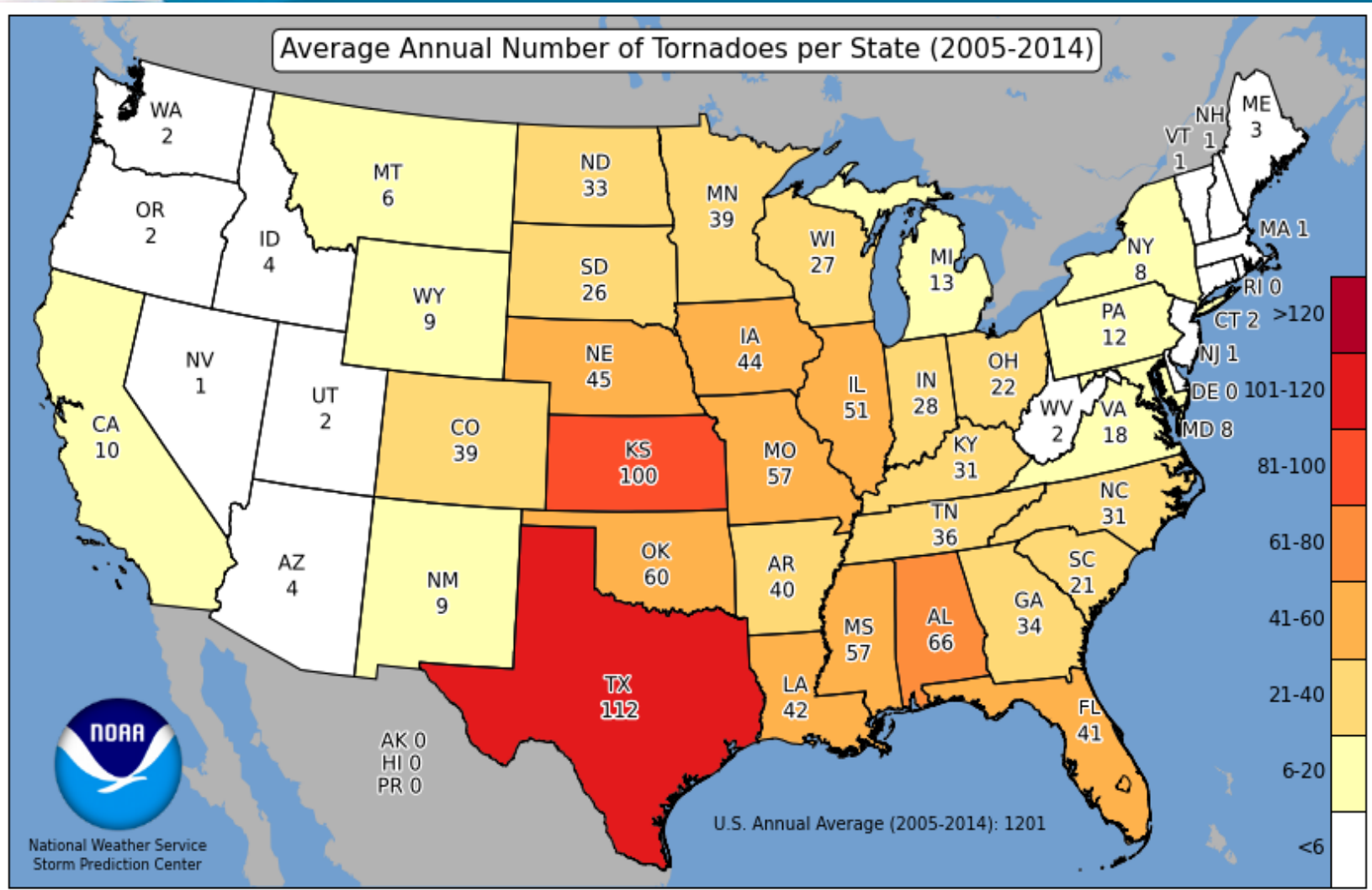


Photo: Andrew Arnold



Tornado



Tornado

There are 3 stages in a tornado's life.

Stage 1 Developing Stage

- A wall cloud forms
- Rotations increases
- A RFD (Rear Flank Downdraft) develops (the lower clouds clear out)

Stage 2 Mature

- This is when the tornado is the strongest
- A funnel is most likely visible
- The RFD continues (a horseshoe-shaped clearing)

Stage 3 Dissipation

- The inflow to the storm is cut off
- The tornado shrinks and tilts
- Eventually dissipates

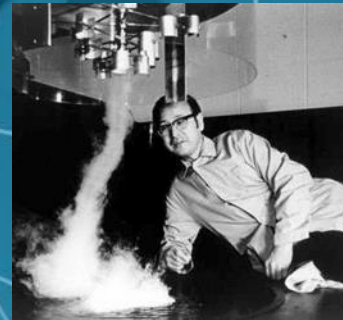


Tornado

The Enhanced Fujita Scale

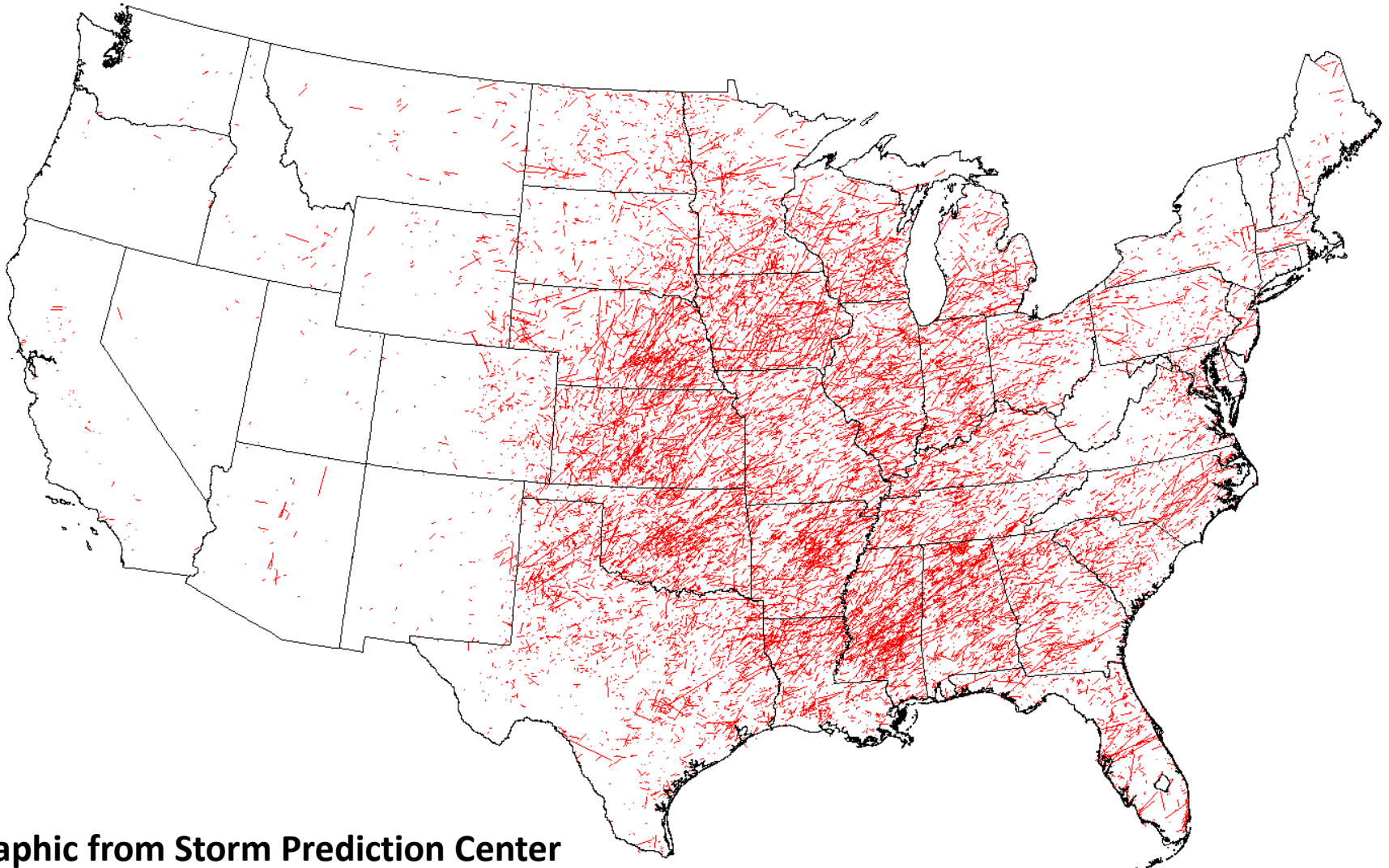
Tornadoes are classified by the intensity of damage it creates to objects.

<u>Scale</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>Expected Damage</u>
EF0	65-85	Light
EF1	86 -109	Moderate
EF2	110-137	Considerable
EF3	138-167	Severe
EF4	168-199	Devastating
EF5	200-234	Incredible



Tornado

Tornado tracks 1950-2014

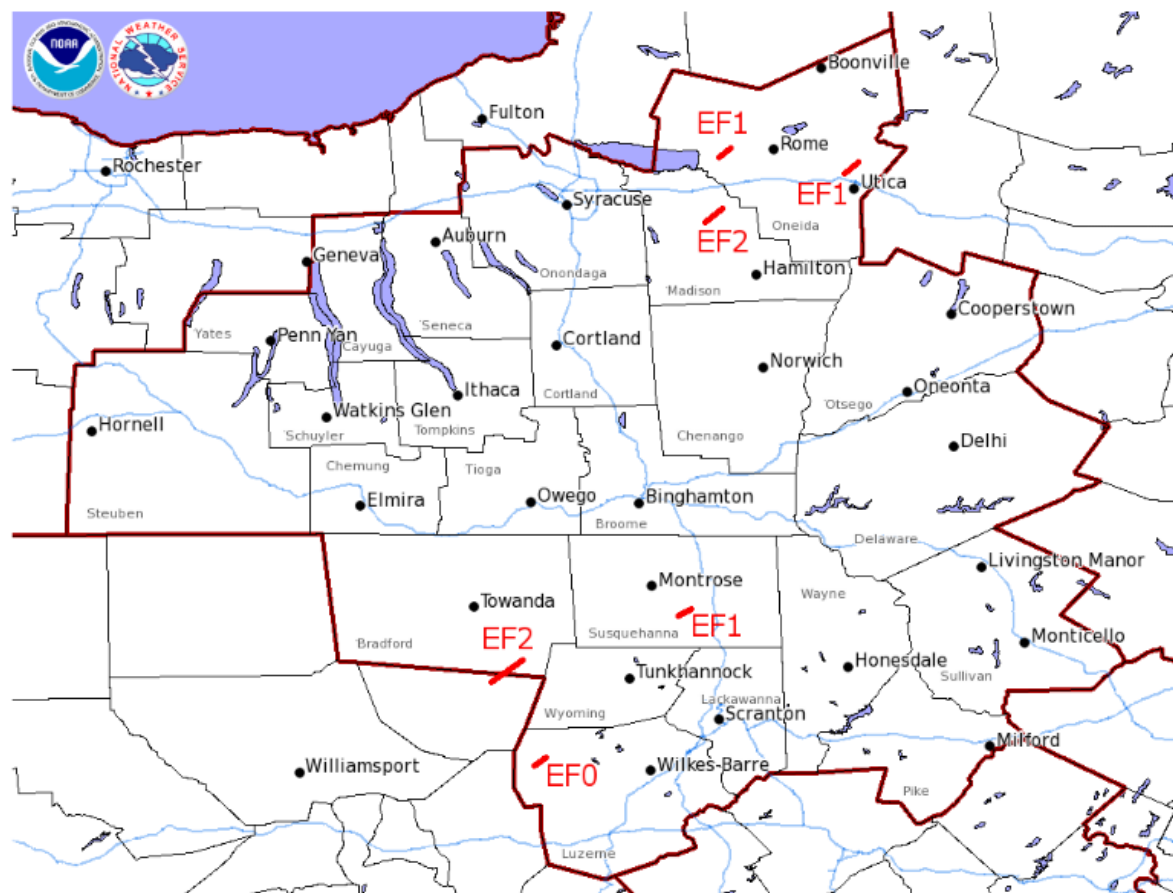


Graphic from Storm Prediction Center

Outbreak from 2014

Outbreak from 2014

Tornado tracks – July 8, 2014



NY and PA Tornadoes

Tornadoes can tear homes apart and cause fatalities.

Damage from an EF1 and EF2 tornado in 2014



Tornado Safety

Practice, Practice, Practice a tornado drill!!!!

Take Cover!!

Inside...

First choice: Basement!

Find an area of sturdy protection. Cover yourself with a sleeping bag or mattress.

Second choice: Lowest floor, center room.

Find a small room, away from windows, usually a bathroom/closet. Crouch as low as possible to the floor. Face downward cover your head with your hands.

If you are in a mobile home... GET OUT! These are not safe. Have a plan!!!

Outside...

In a car:

Seek shelter in a sturdy building. DO NOT hide under an overpass.

Open Outdoors:

Lie flat and face down on the ground. Protect the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.



WATCH vs. WARNING

CAUTION

Watch the Sky

Watch- “Stand-by”

Conditions are favorable for severe weather in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. Issued by the Storm Prediction Center

DANGER

Take Cover Now

Warning- “Activated”

The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and river flooding. Issued by NWS Binghamton for central New York and northeast Pennsylvania.